

Labor Resources for Conway, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Conway, South Carolina. Conway is located in Horry County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Conway.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Conway, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	150,932	252,791	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	76,208	126,556	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	4,770	8,549	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	6.3%	7.1%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	109	533	22,196
Average Wages	Horry County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$467	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Conway, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	76,208	126,556	2,046,179
Change since 2000	3,617	5,877	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	150,932	252,791	4,198,068
Change since 2000	14,148	22,087	186,056
Projected 2010	162,904	267,684	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	74,215	124,309	2,040,261
Female	76,717	128,483	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	30,323	50,438	875,330
Ages 35-49	32,351	53,776	925,330
Ages 50-64	29,043	48,544	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	72,919	121,536	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	48,483	80,584	778,054
Some College	34,585	55,832	500,194
Associate Degree	10,482	17,146	173,428
Bachelors Degree	19,244	32,021	351,526
Post Bachelor	8,925	15,089	178,529

**Prime working age group:*
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and
Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Conway, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	71,439	118,007	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Horry County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	210	492	12,379
Mining	63	105	1,603
Utilities	203	304	11,891
Construction	5,681	8,835	111,730
Manufacturing	3,366	7,250	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	161	320	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	155	245	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing		2	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	571	988	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	96	242	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing			7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.		10	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	104	519	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	92	140	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	75	119	7,846
Food manufacturing	48	136	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing		1	1,445
Textile mills	53	121	40,207
Textile product mills		41	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	67	336	5,321
Paper manufacturing		60	14,710
Printing and related support activities	170	253	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	11	185	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing		30	23,054
Wholesale Trade	1,407	2,430	62,523
Retail Trade	11,325	18,223	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	724	1,230	46,941
Education and Health Services	6,157	11,760	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	19,433	29,624	192,748
Professional and Business Services	4,995	8,042	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Horry County				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
AVX Corp	Myrtle Beach	Electronic components	1,380	1948
Conbraco Industries	Conway	Teflon seals	410	1982
Conbraco Industries-Steel Prods Div	Conway	Steel castings	382	1982
The Sun News	Myrtle Beach	Newspapers	267	1961
CHF Industries Inc	Loris	Comforters	187	1989
Pepsi Cola Bottling of Conway	Conway	Soft drinks	184	1958
AVX Corp	Conway	Electronic components	175	
Wolverine Brass Inc	Conway	Brass plumbing fittings	175	1963
New South Lumber Companies	Conway	Pine lumber	159	1957
Honeywell	Conway	Amorphous metal	140	1989
Palmetto Paving Corp	Conway	Paving mixtures	109	1987
APAC Carolina-Myrtle Beach Div	Conway	Asphalt	100	
Regal-Beloit Corporation	Loris	Taps (standard & specials)	80	1986
Builders First Source	Conway	Building material dealer	75	1976
Native Sons	Aynor	Screen printed garments	75	1990
Glendinning Marine Products	Conway	Electronic engine controls	75	1972
Universal Forest Products	Conway	Roof trusses	65	1962
Tyson Sign Systems	Myrtle Beach	Signs-interior & exterior	45	1987
Clear Channel Outdoor	Myrtle Beach	Billboards	41	1978

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	76,208	126,556	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	3,617	5,877	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	51%	51%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	4,770	8,042	139,607
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	7.1%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	109	533	22,196
Manufacturing	72	480	19,196
Distribution	-	-	1,213
Service	37	53	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	6,648	13,054	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Horry County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	124
Data Processing Technology	41
Engineering Technologies (Total)	49
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	*
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	12
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	87
Industrial Electronics	47
HVAC	40
Precision Production (Total)	11
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	*

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Horry County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$467	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$24,271	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Horry County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$32,266	\$39,027
Wood product	\$31,378	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$33,038	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$34,372	\$37,533
Machinery	\$33,162	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$22,261	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$26,598	\$34,350
Food	\$23,314	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$28,874	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$27,338	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	\$31,571	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Conway and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Horry County Area*			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	*	*	*
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$10.50	\$11.90	\$13.27
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$8.17	\$9.87	\$11.78
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	\$11.07	\$12.37	\$13.16
Logging Equipment Operators	\$10.39	\$14.79	\$19.25
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$9.88	\$13.83	\$16.70
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	*	*	*
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$10.76	\$13.80	\$16.73
Machinists	\$10.77	\$14.52	\$16.82
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	*	*	*
Molding & Casting Machine Op	*	*	*
Sewing Machine Operators	*	*	*
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$7.90	\$9.29	\$10.61
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$10.30	\$13.44	\$15.74
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$10.80	\$13.73	\$15.85
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$7.87	\$11.23	\$13.28
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Horry County Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$31,720	\$42,440	\$51,000
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$26,480	\$37,360	\$44,520
Industrial Engineers	\$40,760	\$54,160	\$63,680
Mechanical Engineers	*	*	*

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available